

**Sermon Series: *God’s Glorious Church in Real Life* Sermon Title: *The Gracious Gifts and Guarantees of God* Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9** Pastor Chris Fritz Sunday, August 30, 2020

**INTRODUCTION: PERSPECTIVE AND PATIENCE**

*“Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools. Say not, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.” (Eccles. 7:8-10)*

*1 Corinthians 1:4-9 -*

**I. THE ENRICHING, EXPECTATION-PRODUCING GRACE OF GOD**

**1) Paul’s thanksgiving is not based upon the Corinthians but upon God and His GRACE!**

Note: God’s grace is God’s active favor and goodness towards ill-deserving people.

*“For the wages of is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)*

Note: God’s G.R.A.C.E. is **G**od’s **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist’s **E**xpense.

**2) In verses 4-9, Paul stressed how good and generous God had been to the Corinthians.**

*“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:10a)*

**3) All this talk of God’s grace should produce in us soft hearts, humility, and gratitude to God!**

*“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ…” (1 Corinthians 1:10a)*

**4) For our present life and ministry, God gives GIFTS (everything we need to glorify Him)!**

*“For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)*

*“His divine power has granted to us ALL THINGS that pertain to LIFE and GODLINESS, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence…” (2 Peter 1:3)*

**5) For our present comfort, joy, and ultimate security God gives GUARANTEES!**

*1 Corinthians 1:7-9 -*

Note: Jesus Christ is going to be “revealed” (and we are waiting and longing for that!).

Note: Believers will be sustained until the very end (and declared guiltless because of Christ!).

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)*

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” (1 John 2:1)*

Note: God is perfectly faithful (and we have been called into unending fellowship with His Son!).

**Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. From verse 4, how could Paul possibly “always” give thanks for the Corinthians? What was the source and basis of his thanksgiving?
2. What is “grace”? How should we define it and understand it?
3. Why does Paul use “passive verbs” in these verses to describe the Corinthians as recipients of God’s grace? What does this teach us about God and His grace?
4. What should an understanding of God’s grace produce in us (and continue to produce in us)?
5. As it relates to the future, what are some of the things that are guaranteed and promised in these verses to believers? How should these truths encourage and strengthen us today?